

Ellis Island Oral Interview

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department
Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Statue of Liberty National Monument



Interviewee: Catherine Gaetano Gallippi

Date of Birth: February 17, 1914

Date of Interview: December 12, 1990

Interviewer: Paul E. Sigrist, Jr.

Immigrated from Italy at Age 8 in 1922

Ellis Island Collection: EI-17

Gallippi (Her Mother Learns English):

Sigrist: Did your mother ever learn English?

Gallippi: Not fully. She tried very hard. She could write her name, she could tell time, money, everything. She knew everything about that, but she never spoke fluently...I do remember that they were trying to get a lot of these women at that time to take classes but they said, "We're too busy with the children. We just can't take time." So this is why a lot of people did not learn.